



# Utah's House is in Order

Recent days have brought unprecedented changes to our economy, to our jobs, and to our way of life. For most of us, our daily rhythms and routines have changed. Many of these changes have created anxiety and uncertainty about the future.

At the state level, we are well prepared and well equipped to weather the economic impact that may result from the situation we're facing.

## Utah's official source for COVID-19 information:



**Coronavirus.utah.gov**



**@UtahCoronavirus**



## The State has set up 11 COVID-19 working groups - they include

- Department of Health Incident Command
- Testing
- Hospital Incident Command
- Space Needs and Overflow
- Economic Response
- Unemployment
- Child Care Response
- Education
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Homelessness
- Finance



## Resources

- The national resource on symptoms, travel updates, and preparation is the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at **CDC.gov**.
- The landing page for both employers and employees is **Jobs.utah.gov** or call **801.526.WORK**
- If you are unable to work due to COVID-19, the Department of Workforce Services is ready to help. Find out more here: **Jobs.utah.gov/covid19**
- For a list of resources available by county, visit **uw.org/211/resource-lists-by-county**
- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering loans up to \$2 million for small businesses affected by COVID-19. Learn more here: **sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance**
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has resources to help small businesses survive the coronavirus. Read more here: **USChamber.com/co/small-business-coronavirus**
- Call **211** or visit **211.org/services/covid19** if you need assistance finding food, paying housing bills, or locating other essential services.



## Federal Government

- Declaring a national emergency activated **\$42 billion in emergency federal funds**.
- Additionally, Congress approved funding to provide **insurance coverage to allow for free COVID-19 testing**.
- **Students will not have to pay interest on federal student loans** until further notice. Additionally students on a federal work-study program will continue to receive wages, even if they cannot work.
- The State of Utah is working with the federal government to provide greater flexibility for loan payment deferrals.
- The IRS is permitting interest-free tax deferrals.



## Local Government

- Despite all the closures, **government offices are still up and running**. You can still contact your city, state, and federal leaders. City and state elected officials are working with the federal government to assist Utahns during this health crisis and the resulting economic uncertainty.
- Much of normal life still goes on. **Local governments are still providing essential services** like trash pick-up, emergency response services, and building inspections and permitting.
- While restaurants can't host guests, we can help them out by getting takeout and doing our part to **support small and local businesses**.
- Our **grocery stores and gas stations are still open** so people can get food and other supplies. We still can and should support businesses as appropriate.



## Travel

- For **Americans traveling internationally**, you are encouraged to register through **STEP**, the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program**. This will allow the U.S. government to provide you with the latest information on travel outside the United States. Register by visiting [Step.state.gov/step](https://step.state.gov/step)
- **When traveling internationally**, Americans must come through one of 13 airports. **Airlines will reroute passengers at no cost**. Those airports include: Boston-Logan, Chicago O'Hare, Dallas/Fort Worth, Detroit Metropolitan, Daniel Inouye (Hawaii), Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, JFK, LAX, Miami, Newark, San Francisco, Seattle-Tacoma and Washington-Dulles.
- **Travelers arriving from at-risk countries** will be asked about medical history, current condition, and contact information and will be told to home-quarantine for likely 14 days.

## 65+ Seniors

Local stores are dedicating specific shopping hours for seniors and at-risk customers. Check your local grocery store's website for more information.

- **Smith's and Harmons** are offering exclusive shopping hours for seniors on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. They also have employees dedicated to assist with shopping needs.
- All **Macey's, Dan's, Lin's, Dick's Market, and Fresh Market** stores are offering one hour of shopping time for those over the age of 60. Check with your local store for more details.
- Each Wednesday, **Target** will dedicate the first hour of operation for seniors and those with underlying health concerns.
- **Dollar General** stores will dedicate the first hour of store opening to senior citizens.
- **Whole Foods Market** will let customers 60 years and older shop one hour before opening to the rest of the public.

Utah State Legislature has set aside funds to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among seniors. Utah has placed \$3 million into programs such as **Meals on Wheels** and **in-home medical testing services** to ensure seniors are properly cared for.



## Utah is Prepared

- Although we are facing natural disasters, a pandemic, and economic insecurity, **Utah is prepared**.
- The Utah Legislature has balanced the state budget while still adding reserves to our Rainy Day Funds. To date, we have created nearly **\$800 million dollars in Rainy Day Funds**.
- The Utah Legislature created the **Medicaid Rainy Day Fund** and the **Disaster Recovery Fund** to bring services to citizens when times are tough.
- State funds are only authorized to be spent **until the tax revenue has been collected**. This ensures we have sufficient cash-flow from one fiscal year to another, a principle that is even more important now that federal tax filing deadlines have been delayed to July 15.
- We have **safeguarded funding for Utah students**, both in public education and higher education.
- The Utah Legislature also appropriated **\$24 million to bolster the efforts and help elderly Utahns** amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.



## Things You Can Do

Although we are practicing social distancing and staying home as much as possible, there are still many activities for you and your family. You can:

- Go outside for a walk or run
- Learn a new skill
- Spring cleaning
- Play a board game
- Read a book
- Complete a puzzle
- Meditate
- Bake cookies
- Watch a movie
- Video chat

Our state is filled with people and organizations who care for their neighbors. The good nature ingrained in Utah's culture has shown that, regardless of the adversity we may face, we will face it together with optimism, with hope, and with courage.



For real time alerts, advisories, and closures related to COVID-19, visit [Coronavirus.utah.gov/latest-information](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/latest-information)